



INNOVATIONS FOR
SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES



UNICEF staff distributing critical supplies to families in Côte d'Ivoire during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by Frank Dejongh, UNICEF.

Starting Ahead, Staying Ahead: Senegal's 2020 Response to COVID-19

Senegal entered the COVID-19 pandemic with what seemed to be grave disadvantages, among them the inability of most households to adjust to prolonged lockdowns, given their dependence on wages they earned day to day. But the West African country also enjoyed an advantage: it was well prepared for an epidemic. In the years following the 2014 Ebola outbreak, Senegal had built a comprehensive health-care emergency response system, and when COVID-19 arrived in March 2020, Senegal moved fast. President Macky Sall declared a state of emergency and announced immediate restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. The country's emergency operations center became the headquarters for a dedicated COVID-19 Incident Management System, and the Dakar branch of the international Pasteur Institute helped develop a rapid diagnostic test. The government spent 7% of its gross domestic product—more than any other country in Africa—on socioeconomic support measures. The response team credited those measures with the successful containment of community spread during the first wave of the disease. During 2020, the numbers of ill people coming to hospitals and health facilities for treatment remained low, and disease models suggested that subsequent waves were generally of short duration—even after an October religious pilgrimage that had brought thousands together under crowded conditions.

[READ MORE](#)



An Urban95 community-build playground project in Lima, Peru.

Lima Frames a Strategy for Serving the Needs of its Youngest Residents

Jorge Muñoz had long championed efforts to improve the lives of children in his relatively well-off district of Peru's capital city, Lima. In 2019, he had a chance to take some of his ideas to scale. As newly elected mayor of metropolitan Lima, a city of almost 11 million, he oversaw basic services for about a third of the country's population. At the time, a fifth of Peru's residents lived in poverty, and one in three people lived in informal settlements, where supporting families to give infants and toddlers a healthy start on life presented many challenges. The mayor directed the metropolitan government's Social Development Department and a small interdisciplinary team of architects and social scientists to coordinate to get the job done. When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in the capital city in 2020, the team used some of these newly created systems to respond to the larger challenge of caring for vulnerable populations during months of emergency lockdown measures. The national government labeled Lima's program, which engaged residents in project development, as a promising countrywide model.

[READ MORE](#)

Innovations for Successful Societies

+1 609-258-5258 | iss@princeton.edu | successfulsocieties.princeton.edu



[Join the ISS
Network](#)